

THE MAGAZINE OF



THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

JANUARY 1964

PRICE 6d.

# SPASTICS NEWS





## President

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., K.T.

## Royal Patron

H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent

## The Executive Committee

*Chairman:* Dr. D. E. Wheeler, B.Sc.,  
Ph.D., F.R.I.C.

*Vice-Chairman:* J. F. G. Emms

*Vice-Chairman:* A. P. Moira

*Hon. Treasurer:* W. A. Burn, F.C.A.

J. E. O. Arnold, F.C.A.

E. Barnett, M.C.S.P., M.Ch.S.

Miss J. Garwood, B.A.

Dr. G. Hamilton Hogben, M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

R. A. Jupp, A.M.I.Mech.E.

J. L. Peterson, M.A.

J. Pringle, M.A.

B. Taylor, A.M.I.Gas.E.

# THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

12 PARK CRESCENT  
LONDON W.1

## The Consultative Council

The Earl of Westmorland (*Chairman*)

*All Members of the Executive Committee*

E. Aarons

T. P. S. Baxter, M.I.Min.E.

D. B. E. Belson

E. Burrington

Dr. Colin Cooke, O.B.E., M.A., J.P.

S. F. Darke

A. F. Hazell

J. D. Herd

W. G. Jehan, M.B.E., M.N.R.S.O.

Charles B. Laird

Mrs. C. E. Lloyd

A. W. Martin

H. W. Palmer, B.Com.

Mrs. L. Stockdale, C.C.

J. S. Tems, F.C.A.

Mrs. D. E. Wheeler

Mrs. G. I. Williams, C.C.

Mrs. D. A. Woolley

## Officers

*Director:* Dr. C. P. Stevens, M.B.E.,  
M.B., Ch.B.

*Assistant Directors:*

J. A. Loring (*Services to Spastics*)

J. E. Price, A.C.A. (*Finance*)

*Secretary:* R. C. E. Cumplen

## Eastern Region

Boston District Branch

Chesterfield and District Spastics Society  
TC

Derby and District Spastics Soc. T  
Grantham & District Friends of Spastics  
Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends  
of Spastics Society

Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Soc. W  
Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics  
Society TC

Lincoln and District Spastics Society

Loughborough and District Spastics Soc.

Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics  
Group O

Newark Area Spastics Society

Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Assoc.

Northampton & County Spastics Soc. TE

Nottingham and District Friends of  
Spastics Group TEC

Peterborough and Dist. Spastics Group O

Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society

Stamford and District Spastics Society

## Regional Officer:

H. G. Knight, 28 Priestgate, Peter-  
borough, Northants. Tel.: 67045.

## Regional Social Worker:

Miss H. M. Day, St. Colomba's Hall,  
35a St. Andrews St., Cambridge

## North-Eastern Region

Barnsley and District Association C

Bradford and District Branch

Castleford and District Spastics  
Committee

Darlington and District Spastics Soc. H

Dewsbury and District Spastics Society

Goole and District Spastics Association

Halifax and District Spastic Group W

Huddersfield and District Spastics Soc.

Hull Group, The Friends of Spastics  
Society in Hull and District H

Leeds and District Spastics Society O

## LOCAL GROUPS

Pontefract and District Spastics Assn.

Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society

Sheffield and District Spastics Soc. TEOC

South Shields and District Spastics  
Society C

Sunderland and District Spastics  
Society CW

Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics  
TE

York and District Spastics Group TC

## Regional Officer:

R. J. F. Whyte, Royal Chambers,  
Station Parade, Harrogate. Tel.: 69655

## North-Western Region

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic  
and Handicapped Children's Society C

Birkenhead Spastic Children's Soc. TEC

Blackburn and District Spastics Group

Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group CW

Bollington, Macclesfield and Dist. Group

Bolton and District Group TE

Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics  
Group

Chester and District Spastic Assoc.

Crewe and District Spastics Society TO

Crosby and District Spastics Society

Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness  
Spastics Society H

Lancaster, Morecambe and District  
Spastics Society

Manchester & Dist. Spastics Soc. TCE

Oldham & District Spastics Society CT

Preston and District Spastic Group CT

Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics  
Society RTEC

Southport, Formby and District Spastics  
Society

Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak  
Spastics Society TOC

Urmston and District Group TC

Warrington Group for the Welfare of  
Spastics

Widnes Spastics Fellowship Group

## Regional Officer:

T. H. Keighley, 20 Brazenose Street,  
Manchester. Tel.: Blackfriars 6130

## Northern Home Counties Region

Bedford and District TOWE

Bishop's Stortford and District Group, E

Herts Spastics Society

Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare  
Society W

Clacton and District Group

Colchester and District Group

East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society

Epping Forest and District Branch TO

Essex Group

Harlow and District Branch

Hatfield and District Group, Herts  
Spastics Society

Hemel Hempstead and District Group,

Herts Spastics Society

Hitchin and District Friends of Spastics,

Herts Spastics Society

Ilford, Romford and District Spastics  
Association O

Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics  
Group T

Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group

Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society TC

Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare  
Society

## Chief Regional Officer:

A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A., 12 Park  
Cresc., London, W.1.

## Key:

T—Treatment Available

E—Education

O—Occupational Centre



# IN THIS ISSUE

Vol. X, No. I

Editor: Eve Renshaw

January, 1964

	PAGE		PAGE
Research into the causes of Cerebral Palsy ...	4	The Pools—Business as Usual ...	15
The Chairman's New Year Message ...	6	Pioneers! O Pioneers! ...	17
Spastics at Work ...	7	The Cardiff '62 Club ...	19
The New Buxton Centre ...	8	National Schools and Centres ...	20
The Square Wheel ...	9	Map of Regions, 1964 ...	21
The Day Centre at Oxford ...	10	Letters to the Editor ...	22
Mainly About Beacons ...	11	Small Advertisements ...	23

FRONT COVER PICTURE: *The Beatles entertaining at the S.O.S. annual Ball.*

Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society  
 Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society  
 South-West Middlesex Group  
 St. Albans and District Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 Walthamstow and District Spastics Society  
 Watford and District Group, Herts Spastic Society  
 Welwyn Garden City and District Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 Wycombe and District Spastics Society

## Regional Officer:

R. C. Lemarie, 524 St. Alban's Road  
 North Watford. Tel.: 41565.

## Regional Social Worker:

Miss Balance, same address

## London Region (provisional)

East London Spastic Society  
 North London Area Association of Parents and Friends of Spastics  
 North-West London Spastics Soc.  
 South-East London Group  
 South London Group  
 South-West London and District Group

## Regional Officer:

G. W. Miller, 28 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1. Tel.: EUSon 2436-7

## Local Centres Secretary:

D. Lancaster-Gaye, 12 Park Cresc., London, W.1.

W—Work Centre

H—Holiday Home

C—Child Care

R—Residential Centre

## LOCAL GROUPS

### South-Eastern Region

Brighton, Hove and District Branch  
 Central Surrey Group  
 Croydon and District Branch  
 East Sussex Group  
 Folkestone and District Branch  
 Maidstone Area Spastic Group  
 Medway Towns Branch  
 North Hants and West Surrey Group  
 North Surrey Group  
 North-West Kent Spastics Group  
 North-West Surrey Group  
 South-East Surrey Spastics Group (Redhill)  
 South-West Surrey Group  
 Thanet Group  
 Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area Group  
 West Kent Spastics Society, Incorporating Bromley and District Spastics Group

### Regional Officer:

H. J. I. Cunningham 29b Linkfield Lane, Redhill, Surrey. Tel.: Redhill 3944 and 2250.

### Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. Chinchin, same address

### Wessex Region

Basingstoke & District Spastics Society  
 Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society  
 Cheltenham Spastic Aid Association  
 Isle of Wight Spastics Group  
 Portsmouth and Dist. Spastics Soc.  
 Southampton and District Spastics Association  
 Swindon and District Spastic Society  
 Winchester and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

J. Kelly, 1 Castle Street, Salisbury. Tel.: Salisbury 4521

### Midland Region

Cannock Chase Spastic Association  
 Coventry and District Spastics Society  
 Dudley and District Spastic Group  
 North Staffordshire Spastic Association  
 Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group  
 Stafford and District Spastic Association  
 Worcester and District Branch

### Welsh Region (including Mon.)

Cardiff and District Spastic Assoc.  
 Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society  
 Conway and District Branch  
 Flint Borough Spastics Association  
 Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Soc.  
 Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Soc.  
 Montgomeryshire Spastics Society  
 Pontypridd and District Group  
 Swansea and District Spastics Association

### Regional Officer:

B. Kingsley-Davies 2 Saunders Road, Cardiff. Tel.: 29289

### Regional Social Worker:

Miss Davey

### Western Region

Bath and District Spastics Society  
 Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association  
 Bristol Spastics Association  
 Cornish Spastics Society  
 Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society  
 Plymouth Spastic (CP) Assoc.  
 Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society

### Regional Officer:

Mrs. A. Mansel-Dyer, St. John House, 60 Staplegrove Road, Taunton, Somerset. Tel.: 81678

Jersey Spastic Society



# RESEARCH INTO THE CAUSES OF CEREBRAL PALSY

by **Dr. Alison McDonald**  
*Paediatric Research Unit, Guy's Hospital*

*At the new year, many new readers join the SPASTICS NEWS. For their benefit and for older readers who like to be kept informed of current research, we publish here the text of a talk given recently by Dr. McDonald to the Harrogate Conference.*

★ ★ ★

**D**ISEASES have not one but many causes. When you think of how many factors may contribute to a road accident, you realise that there are many circumstances which may be important—for instance, bends, or obstructions in the road, a wet road, unsatisfactory lighting conditions or lack of attention to the brakes.

We might expect to be able to cut down the number of accidents by attending to any one of these factors, but if we want to get the best possible result we need to take them all into consideration.

On the other hand, in order to take effective preventive action, it may not be necessary to know just how each of the factors works. Take cigarette smoking which it is now known is an important but not the only cause of cancer of the lung. Although we do not understand exactly how the damage is done we can take effective preventive action if we can succeed in dissuading young people from taking up smoking, and in

persuading smokers to give up the habit. The methods which have been used in the studies of smoking and lung cancer are similar to those which are being used in the field of cerebral palsy to study causes.

There are three main ways in which the causes of any disease may be studied. First, through a thorough understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the human body and its behaviour in disease. This knowledge may give us clues as to the causes of disease and is also essential to enable us to judge whether or not clues suggested in other ways are likely to be true. Secondly experiments, which can generally only be done on animals, can be used to find out whether these clues (or hypotheses about causes of disease) stand up to such tests. Thirdly, there is the epidemiological method, which involves studying disease in groups or populations rather than individuals.

I will try to review the contribution which each of these methods can make to our understanding of the causes of cerebral palsy, and to indicate some of the work that is being done at the Paediatric Research Unit at Guy's Hospital.

## General

Knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the human body and particularly of the nervous system—the brain, spinal cord and nerves—and of how it develops, is essential. Since some types of cerebral palsy may originate during pregnancy, even as early as the time of conception, it is very important to understand about all stages in development from the time of conception onwards and also about the changes which take place around the time of birth. Rapid advances have been made in the past few years in cytogenetics—the study of chromosomes which contain the genetic material.

The basic abnormality in mongolism has been discovered by this method. Much valuable work in the cytogenetics of mongolism has been done in the Paediatric Research Unit under its director Prof. P. E. Polani. The direct application of this work to cerebral palsy is at present somewhat limited, although two very rare chromosome abnormalities have been discovered which cause a severe general disorder in which spasticity is present. But although no chromosome abnormalities have been found in the usual forms of cerebral palsy, any light which is thrown on mechanisms of normal and abnormal development will ultimately contribute to our understanding of the causes of cerebral palsy and also of other disorders of development.

Biochemistry, which is the chemistry of living tissues, is another important source of information. A growing number of rare disorders are found to be due to missing enzymes, which are chemical substances present in very small amounts, but essential for certain reactions carried on in the cells. A



*Books, reprints and other relevant journals are available to the research workers*



laboratory undertaking biochemical studies has been established in the Paediatric Research Unit under the direction of Dr. P. Benson.

## Experimental

There are two important contributions which experimental methods can make to our understanding of the causes of cerebral palsy. First, animal studies can teach us a lot about the structure and the function under varying conditions of such tissues as the brain which are difficult to study in the human. Secondly, experiments on animals can be designed to test ideas about how the brain could be damaged. In the Paediatric Research Unit Dr. R. Spector is carrying out studies of enzymes in the brains of rats, and he is also studying the effect on rats' brains of asphyxia.

When in 1862 Willian Little gave an address on cerebral palsy to the Obstetrical Society of London, he said that there were three conditions which tended to be associated with cerebral palsy; abnormal labour, asphyxia and prematurity. Since then much further evidence has accumulated which all tends to confirm the truth of Little's observations. It would therefore be reasonable to suggest that asphyxia during birth is a likely cause of cerebral palsy. This hypothesis can be tested experimentally and in fact this is being done by Dr. Spector. In these experiments the blood supply to the brains of rats is cut off for varying lengths of time in rats of varying maturity, and the brains are then examined in different ways. The effect of depriving the brain cells of oxygen in this way is studied under the microscope. An electron microscope which has an extremely high magnification and reveals the structure of cells in a different way from ordinary microscopes is also being used. Finally the chemical constituents of brain tissue damaged by deprivation of oxygen are analysed.

## Epidemiological

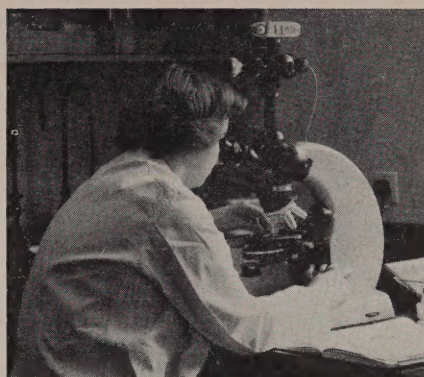
Since Little's first reports on cerebral palsy many surveys have been undertaken, but they have contributed disappointingly little additional information. They have confirmed the importance of complications of childbirth and of prematurity, but have added little to our understanding of what part these factors play in causing cerebral palsy. One of the reasons for this lack of progress is that there are many different types of cerebral palsy and probably many different sets of causes.

I will now try to review what is known about the causes of cerebral palsy, and to tell you about the epidemiological studies we have been doing at the Paediatric Research Unit.

### Athetoid cerebral palsy due to severe jaundice of the newborn

Quite a lot is understood about the way in which this type of cerebral palsy is caused. The yellow pigment which discolours the skin and the whites of the eyes damages cells in certain parts of the brain, and the weakness and disordered movements of athetoid cerebral palsy are the result. Deep jaundice is the main factor in causing this type of cerebral palsy; since this can now generally be controlled there is not much point in trying to find out what the contributory causes are.

There are two main reasons for jaundice in newborn children; firstly, rhesus incompatibility and secondly prematurity. Warning of rhesus trouble can be obtained by examining the blood of the mother for antibodies during late pregnancy.



*In the  
Observation  
Room*

When antibodies are found the infant's blood should be tested at birth and if necessary a replacement blood transfusion given. In less severe cases, and when jaundice is due to prematurity, blood samples should be taken from the baby to detect the degree of jaundice, and if this reaches a certain level replacement transfusion should be carried out.

### Athetoid cerebral palsy not due to jaundice

Athetoid cerebral palsy indistinguishable from that following jaundice can occur in the absence of a history of jaundice. In such cases a history of asphyxia at the time of birth has commonly been found. Our knowledge, however, is still very limited, and we need to know whether the cerebral palsy is caused by the asphyxia or whether asphyxia is the result of prior damage to the brain during pregnancy. We also need to know what factors during childbirth may give rise to asphyxia and what factors render the infant susceptible. So far there are no answers.

In the Paediatric Research Unit Dr. E. D. Alberman is studying the birth histories of a large series of children with cerebral palsy who were born in hospitals in the London area; she is comparing them with the birth histories of other children born at the same hospitals. The analysis is not yet complete but there are some interesting findings as far as athetoid children are concerned which suggest that perhaps the condition may be caused by a combination of adverse factors inside the womb and asphyxia during birth.

### Spastic hemiplegia

A considerable proportion—perhaps a third of the cases of spastic hemiplegia—follow an illness during the first year or two of life. Injury and brain haemorrhage during delivery are apparently responsible for a proportion of cases of spastic hemiplegia which date from birth. We have not included spastic hemiplegia in our study of birth factors because we have tried to concentrate upon spastic diplegia and athetosis but we hope to study the different forms of spastic hemiplegia later.

### Spastic diplegia and prematurity

Most types of cerebral palsy occur more commonly in premature children (that is children weighing less than 5½ lb.) than in heavier children, but this is particularly true of spastic diplegia. In this type of cerebral palsy the legs are more spastic than the arms and in fact the arms and hands may be normal. Over half of the children with spastic diplegia are premature, and a high proportion of those that are premature are very small babies indeed. This fact has



been known for a long time, and three main theories have been put forward to explain the association between diplegia and premature birth.

Freud, the famous psychiatrist, made a very extensive and careful study of cerebral palsy and came to the conclusion that the relationship between diplegia and premature birth was most likely due to the fact that both abnormalities had a common cause. In other words whatever caused diplegia also caused the baby to be born prematurely.

Others have considered that the high proportion of premature births in diplegia was due to the fact that there were greater risks of damage and deprivation of oxygen to babies born prematurely than to those born at term.

Lastly, a number of authorities have put forward the theory that the normal development of the nervous system might be adversely affected by premature birth. This would mean that diplegia was due to environmental conditions after birth.

In order to try to find out which of these three theories was most likely to be correct I have been studying over a thousand children who weighed less than 4 lb. at birth. This is an extremely low birth weight: less than five in every thousand children are as small as this when they are born. In collaboration with School Medical Officers we traced the children when they were about seven years old and found that six per cent had developed cerebral palsy (about 30 times the usual rate). I compared the early histories of these children with those of the children who did not develop cerebral palsy. It was clear that the length of pregnancy, and therefore the

maturity of the child, was a most important factor. In pregnancies that lasted not longer than 30 weeks 12½ per cent of children had diplegia, compared with two per cent in pregnancies lasting at least 35 weeks. This close relationship between diplegia and length of pregnancy suggests that an important factor in determining this type of cerebral palsy is the maturity of the nervous system at the time of birth. There was no indication of any common cause of premature birth and diplegia since complications of pregnancy occurred equally in the diplegia and the normal group. Neither injury nor asphyxia during birth was commoner in the diplegic than the control group which suggests that birth factors are not important in these very small children. Therefore one may conclude that the diplegia in very immature children is probably due to a disturbance of the normal development of the nervous system occasioned by being born too early.

The children in this series were born before the dangers of giving too much oxygen were appreciated, and many had been given oxygen for very long periods. It was evident that no damage to the nervous system had been done by giving too much oxygen—in fact rather the reverse. In the most immature children there was a distinct suggestion that prolonged oxygen treatment may have prevented some of the children from getting diplegia. This observation needs to be confirmed in some other way before too much weight can be placed on it, but it is at least encouraging that there is a possibility of preventing some cases of cerebral palsy in this way.

## From the Chairman . . .

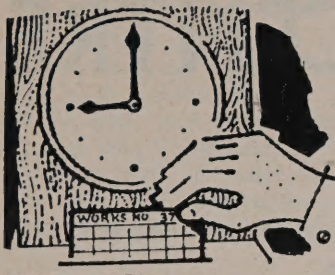
### A NEW YEAR MESSAGE

I AM glad to have this opportunity on my own behalf and on behalf of the Executive Committee to wish a happy and successful New Year to all members of the Spastics Society, to all readers of *Spastics News* and to all our friends throughout the world.

The aim this year is for the Society and its local associations to provide places for another 1,000 spastics. We may fall short of this target but at the moment there are no less than 43 new projects either being built or in an advanced stage of planning.

All this work is part of the Society's ten-year plan, which is well under way and which is revised and brought up to date at regular intervals. The Society and its Groups by steady co-operation in a common cause, have built a reliable and comprehensive foundation for a service through which, in the end, almost every spastic person in the country will be helped to a better and freer life, as many are helped now. May 1964 bring that day nearer. May 1964 be a better year than ever for us all.





## SPASTICS AT WORK

**Maureen Abbott**, from Warrington is working as a junior clerk for a local firm following her training at the Chester Office Training Centre.

**Anthony Allen**, from Northwood, having completed his training at the Chester Office Training Centre is working on a trial basis for a firm in Uxbridge.

**Paula Archer**, from Tilbury is employed as a treadle machine operator in a factory manufacturing baby clothes.

**Michael Beacham**, from Stoneleigh is employed on routine clerical work in the local office of the Ministry of Pensions.

**Constance Clements**, from Nelson, having completed her training at the Chester Office Training Centre is now working as a Nursery Nurse Assistant.

**Gwen Coles**, from Dulverton who recently completed her training at Sherrards is employed as a residential domestic help at Woodlarks Camp in Farnham, Surrey.

**Gordon Doherty**, from Crouch Hill has commenced a new job.

**David Flack**, from Chelmsford who trained at Sherrards some time ago, has changed his job and is now working for an engineering firm in Witney, Oxon.

**Rodger Gillies**, from Saffron Walden who trained at Messrs. Joseph Lucas, Birmingham, is working as a machine minder for a firm of printers in Great Chesterford.

**Roger Goddard**, from Croydon who attended a recent Assessment Course is doing two part-time cleaning jobs whilst awaiting a full-time post.

**Elizabeth Jenkins**, from Caerphilly who attended a recent Assessment Course and is awaiting a vacancy at Sherrards is employed in a local factory—she is operating a small printing machine.

**Christine Jones**, from High Wycombe is working in a local stamp factory.

**John Langdale**, from Nottingham is working locally, packing soap.

**Anne Linton**, from Ramsgate who recently completed her training at the Chester Office Training Centre is working as an Addressograph machine operator for a local laundry.

**John Miles**, from Newport, I.O.W., is working in a local Holiday Camp.

**Elaine Mills**, from Bristol has commenced work as an Addressograph machine operator with a local firm, following her training at the Chester Office Training Centre.

**Yvonne Murtagh**, from London, who is shortly to attend an Assessment Course, has a new temporary job.

**Dawn Newman**, from Bath, who underwent a course of training at the Chester Office Training Centre, has changed her job, and is now working in Surrey.

**Roy Prince**, from Droylesden has changed his job and is again working for a local firm—he trained at the Chester Office Training Centre some time ago.

**Barbara Robinson**, from Liverpool, who attended a recent Assessment Course had a temporary job before commencing her training at the Chester Office Training Centre at the beginning of November.

**Neville Rodgers**, from Ormskirk, is doing light labouring work in the timber-drying rooms of a local firm making wooden handles.

**Patrick Ronayne**, from Plymouth, who attended a recent Assessment Course and is awaiting a vacancy at Sherrards Training Centre, is working meanwhile as a labourer in H.M. Dockyard, Plymouth.

**Archibald Savage**, from Glasgow, has commenced a new job in London, where his work will be that of a capstan lathe operator.

**Allan Seddon**, from Liverpool, has changed his job and is working for a local firm.

**Sandra Seys**, from Bournemouth, who has attended a Further Education Course and had training at the Chester Office Training Centre, has changed her job and is now employed by a local factory.

**Phillipa Smith**, from Brentwood, after her training at the Chester Office Training Centre, has commenced work as a copy typist for a firm in Dagenham. This is a change of employment.

**Basil Stainer**, from London has a new job and is now doing part-time clerical work at Dr. Barnardo's Homes in Stepney.

**Dorinda Street**, from Ensburry Park, has been working as a checker in a local laundry for some months.

**Margaret Stoneman**, from Otford has been working for some time as a mother's help.

**Michael Summersgill**, from Wisbech, has taken on temporary land-work whilst awaiting a vacancy at Queen Elizabeth's College, Leatherhead, for a course in spray-painting.

**Patricia Tattersall**, from Lytham who attended a recent Assessment Course Cruise has changed her job and is now employed in Croydon in the Staff canteen of a departmental store.

**Brenda Taylor**, from Surrey, who has completed her training at Sherrards, has commenced work as a machine operator for a firm in Croydon.

**Paul Trischler**, from Eastcote has changed his job and is employed on a trial basis as a factory worker in Alorton.

**George Warburton**, from Warrington is now working as a Lift attendant for a local firm.

**Elizabeth Ward**, from Leeds who recently completed her training at the Chester Office Training Centre is working as a clerk for a local firm.

**Susan Watkin**, from Grantham who attended a recent Assessment Course is doing part-time teaching at a local school whilst awaiting a vacancy at a Teachers Training College.

**Pamela Webb**, from Eton Wick is working for a firm of clothing manufacturers in Windsor.

**Catherine Willis**, from Slough is employed locally as a filing clerk.

**Alan Young**, from Balham is employed on clerical and servicing work in a musical instrument maker's shop.

**Raymond Zimmerman**, from London is undergoing an eight-week course of training as a lift attendant at the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works where he will be employed—this is a change of occupation.



# THE NEW BUXTON CENTRE

## For Adult Spastic People

**W**E now have a "Prested" in the North.

A new residential Centre purchased by the Society on the 1st November, 1963, is rapidly becoming operational to meet the Christmas holiday "rush".

The land on which this imposing yet comfortable grey stone building is erected is part of the Estate of the Duke of Devonshire. The house was originally built as an hotel, probably to meet the demand of accommodation for visitors to the famous spa. In 1943 it was acquired for use as a Railway Convalescent Home, and now it is available to fulfil a most urgent need of service towards more adult spastics.

### Among the great moors

"The Bedford" is in a pleasant residential district of the town close to the spa gardens, the theatre and winter gardens, and within easy reach of all the diversions and local entertainments that Buxton has to offer. Surrounded by beautiful rolling hills and wondrous moorland scenery, Buxton is nevertheless easily accessible to Macclesfield, Manchester, Sheffield and Derby.

### Day and residential facilities

In the first phase of the development of the Centre, it is proposed to accommodate 20 moderately handicapped men and women. This number will increase to possible 40 or 45 when an additional lift has been installed and minor alterations carried out, then it will be possible also to accept those who are more heavily handicapped. A special feature of this Centre will be the provision of day facilities for ten spastics from the surrounding area, this being arranged in liaison with the Welfare Department of the Derbyshire County Council. Because of its position it is expected that the men and women who reside at this Centre will have every opportunity of being integrated in the life of Buxton and to have the chance to live the fullest and most normal existence within the limitations of their disabilities.

Mrs. Molyneaux, the Warden of the holiday and short stay home at Clacton-on-Sea is assisting at Buxton as the acting Warden until the appointment of a new Warden is made in February, 1964. (Clacton is undergoing a face-lift this winter.)





## Volunteers for Christmas

The Centre opened over the Christmas holidays for some spastics who had no homes and were in need of help. This was made possible through the co-operation of experienced Houseparent staff from some of the National Schools and Centres who volunteered to come and work with the newly-recruited staff in order that the initial work might go smoothly. Mrs. Molyneux and the staff saw that a good time, in keeping with the festive season, was had by all.

## Extensions planned

The erection of a single-storey purpose-built section is anticipated within the grounds adjoining the rear of the house. This will comprise an occupational therapy department, a light workshop, an aids to daily living unit and a physiotherapy department. **The Jersey Croup have most generously offered the sum of £10,000 towards this vital part of the Centre and the Society is most grateful for this practical form of encouragement.**

## Wide range of occupations

Consultants will be appointed to the Centre and, under the supervision of the Warden, the professional staff and House-

parents will work together as a team to meet the individual needs of both residents and non-residents. Buxton will aim to provide a wide variety of occupations, including light contract work which will be assessed and graded according to capabilities and personal interest.

Training in aids to daily living, occupational therapy and physiotherapy will mean that all the spastic residents will be able to maintain the greatest mobility and independence possible. The advisor service of aids to daily living may be extended beyond the Centre to the spastic's own home in the case of any non-residents.

## Residents from other centres will help

Some residents in the Society's other Centres who wish to be nearer their homes in the north of England have requested a transfer to the new Buxton Centre. They will form a nucleus of those familiar with living in a community and be a tremendous asset in helping others to adjust to a new type of life.

Judging from the enquiries which have been received and the kind help given already, there is strong local interest in the new Centre.

*P. M. Robinson.*

**STOP PRESS**—The final figure for Christmas Cards sold in 1963 looks as if it will be over the 5 million mark—that's over a million above the target! Thank you all very much indeed for making this happen. And we hope the staff of Spastics Cards all went to bed and slept for a week.

## NOW—THE SQUARE WHEEL!

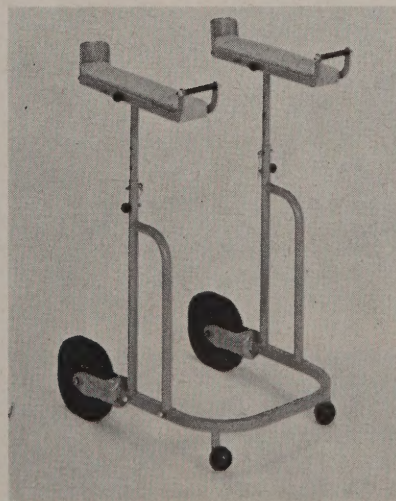
THE design and construction of the new "Square Wheel Aid" is based on the longstanding experience of the inventor, Mr. J. J. Smith, F.B.I.C.C., M.R.S.H., in working with handicapped young people at the David Livingstone Club at Harlow.

The most important and revolutionary feature, the square wheels, fulfil two important functions. They prevent "running away", known on similar models fitted with round wheels; and they promote muscular action on the part of the child or person learning to walk. These square wheels not only retard movement but they also promote the *desire* to move forward—a vital necessity in the therapy treatment given in clinics. When set out of phase, they provide the "gait" of walking, and experience has shown that non-walkers are learning to walk in a shorter period. This is particularly important when only a limited amount of time at the clinic is available for such exercises.

Alternative forearm-rest/grip and handgrip appliances can be fitted into the standard aid, and plastic armshields can be provided as optional extras.

Comments from the centres which have tested this aid, including our schools, all praise its stability and the fact that the aid was stable sideways too, and blocked backward movement,

## SQUARE WHEEL WALKING AID FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN



In use at  
David  
Livingstone Club  
Harlow

Price  
£10 18 9

**HARLOW THERAPEUTICS LTD**  
124 LONDON ROAD, POTTER STREET  
HARLOW, ESSEX





# THE DAY CENTRE AT OXFORD

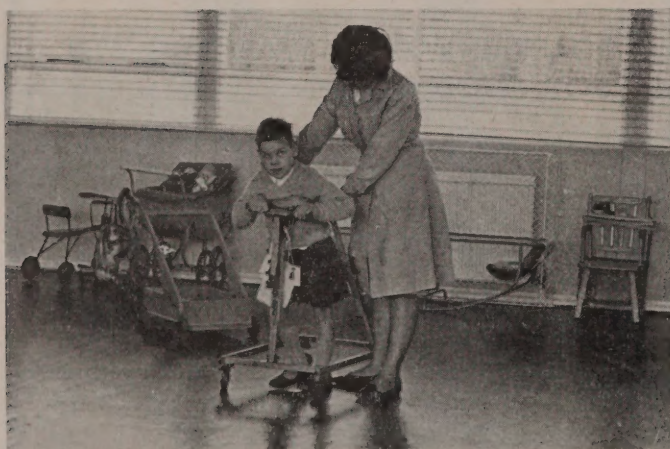
*as it was . . .*

TEN people have recently embarked at the Churchill Hospital on a signal experiment in co-operation between statutory and voluntary organisations.

Alongside a dismal, old and badly weather-stained hut there has risen a long, wooden structure, with large windows and bright colours. To it day after day are brought spastic children, the more senior of whom have been designated ineducable and who, because of gross disability, have long been condemned to pass their days lying inert on beds or sofas.

No one at the Day Centre expects to achieve miracles of rehabilitation with them—but that they can be given some interest has been amply proved.

*. . . and as it is*



*Story by Ray Rosenfield  
of the 'Oxford Times',  
who took the photographs*

The smaller children, more mobile and on the road to developing speech, are enjoying much the same routine as ordinary children pursue in nursery schools.

The younger they come, the better. It is planned that all will stay until they are seven or eight years of age, when it is hoped they will be able to take advantage of the more conventional teaching in a special school. In the new building they have improved vastly on the provision they had in the old hut; there is more equipment and a fuller programme.

In looking after both the nursery and the senior group there is constant and close co-operation with the hospital, which provides speech therapy, occupational therapy and regular medical attention.

For the present it is possible to have the nursery group only twice a week and the seniors three times, but it is hoped that soon it will be possible to have both groups every day. Everything done is done in conjunction with local Medical Officers of Health; Dr. Victoria Smallpiece, paediatrician for the United Oxford Hospitals, is personally engaged in the scheme.

The success of the centre, however, depends most of all on the imagination, generosity and sheer doggedness of the voluntary committee of ten. Two of them are parents of spastic children; the others are simply sympathisers.



"Now I suppose we are rather grand with this centre, after the hut we used to have. But it's only the beginning" said Mrs. Wiggins who is one of the moving spirits of the Group. It cost about £20,000 when fully equipped and of this sum £11,500 was contributed by the Spastics Society.

Mrs. E. Gili, Chairman of the committee, has been responsible for the unusual colour schemes. They are far removed from the gentle pastels or sunshine yellows usually suggested to give cheerful background. Instead, orchid pink is combined with deep plum in the treatment room; French blue, coral and sea green in the corridor; deep rose, white, yellow and grey elsewhere.

There are deep cupboards everywhere, and in the nursery low cupboards that open at a touch allow these severely handicapped children to crawl, stumble or walk and grope for their toys by themselves.

Every child has a chair that has either been specially made or adapted. All have to be brought to the Centre by special transport, which is provided by the hospital. Some of the mothers do escort duty; the W.V.S., Red Cross, S.J.A.B., and Young Wives' Group all help.

At the Centre there is a staff of two with two trainees and a cleaner. Mrs. Doris Francis, the senior house mother, is a trained nurse—and "now I wouldn't like to work with any other kind of children" she says. "I think it's the satisfaction you get when you find that you know what will make them comfortable, when you begin to understand their language, their signs and moans."

Mrs. Francis has taken a spastic child from time to time into her own home for a holiday, so as to give a much-needed

respite to parents. Her own children and the whole neighbourhood had been delighted to help. "I think that if more people knew just how rewarding it was they would undertake to do something similar", she said.

Mrs. Laura Burrows, the junior house mother, agreed. "I've got far more out of this than the children, I'm sure," she said, as she bent down to lift a boy who had entangled his limbs outrageously. "Mind you, the first few weeks were terrible. I worried about the children when I got home, I lay awake all night—but I've long ago come to accept them just as children who need attention—a little more attention than I had given to my own, but basically it's the same".

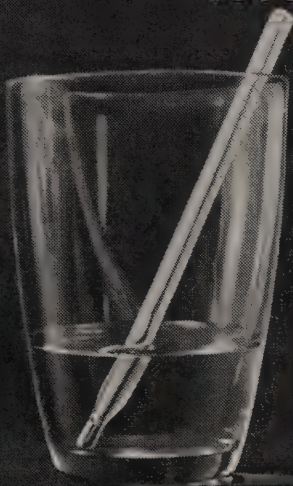
At present two trainees are helping the house mothers; in the past students from the Domestic Economy College and senior pupils of the Girls' High School have helped during their holidays. All of them have written afterwards expressing their gratitude for the chance of participating in an experiment that they felt was valuable in itself and important for the future.

\* \* \*

"There's a lot to be done yet", said Mrs. Wiggins. "The garden to weed and plant—flowers mean a lot to these children, a consulting room and office to be furnished. We need chairs, tables and a filing cabinet for these. We need more chairs for the children; we need lots of toys—soft and easily held toys for the children. We need a radio and a record player—a constant background of music is really appreciated. Music seems to be the one thing to which all spastics respond. . . . Oh yes, there's plenty to do here . . ."

## minor ailments of today

### feverishness



When your body is fighting germs, its temperature regulating mechanism is disturbed and your temperature rises. We say, inaccurately and sorrowfully, that we 'have a temperature'—when what we mean is that our temperature is above normal.

Now some people believe that a raised temperature helps your body to fight infection, and this may be true. But it is also true that 'a temperature' is very uncomfortable, and that you undoubtedly feel a lot better if you take something to bring your temperature down. Feeling better has a lot to do with getting better—and that is why most doctors prescribe acetyl salicylic acid for high temperature, and why most of us take 'ASPRO' when we feel a bit feverish.

Incidentally, 'ASPRO' brings your temperature back to normal and no lower.

Next time you feel feverish, don't forget 'ASPRO'. You will not only be taking one of the best and safest anti-pyretics or fever reducers, but also sparing the Doctor's time for those with more serious complaints. If your fever persists then is the time to consult your Doctor.





# Mainly About Beacons . . .

**Sometimes there are five at once . . .**



(Photograph: Courtesy H. W. Fletcher, Marlow)

The Carpenter's Arms at Marlow was the scene of a bumper Beacon knock-over recently—when no less than five full beacons (a total of £50), all collected simultaneously by this popular hostelry, were knocked over simultaneously by TV. star Stanley Unwin. Mr. and Mrs. Probert were host and hostess to a large crowd of well-wishers, including collector, Col. A. O. Powell. It was a most successful evening, and we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Probert, Stanley Unwin, and the customers of the Carpenter's Arms, for their combined effort for the Society.

**They can be demolished with elegance . . .**



(Photograph: Courtesy Sussex Express & County Herald)

*The Mayor of Lewes (Councillor Miss Anne Dumbrell) pushes a Beacon over at the Gardener's Arms, Lewes*

**... Sometimes times**

**one**

**B I G**

**one . . .**



(Photograph: Courtesy Eltham & Kentish Times)

This enormous pile of pennies, built up on the public bar of another Carpenter's Arms in Eltham High Street, totalled £64. "Mr. Pastry" (Richard Hearne) pushed over the pile and with nearly £40 collected in a bottle in the saloon bar and competitions, aided by the generosity of local traders, Mr. George Harding (right), the licensee, handed over a £130 cheque towards "Mr. Pastry's" Swimming Pools for Spastics Fund by the end of the evening. During the last year "Mr. Pastry's" always-successful campaign to raise funds for swimming pools for the handicapped has made really tremendous strides, thanks to generosity such as this.

**... or bashed in with a bat**



(Photograph: Courtesy Kentish Times)

About £20 worth of pennies from this one, collected by customers of The Bird in Hand, Bromley Common, and swiped off the counter by Kent and England cricketer, Colin Cowdrey.





(Photographs: Courtesy F. J. Winnig)

## The Black Eagle

"The Black Eagle, Northfleet, Kent," writes Mr. Howell, "is not in any Group area, but the very live Beacon Club of the house is a heart-warming one. Not only have they entertained spastics from the Dalarue School, but for the past three years have taken them a Christmas hamper for the breaking-up party."

Mr. Howell (Area Appeals Agent) went to the knock-over wearing the wrong tie, and they cheerfully stung him for a handsome fine on the spot, to swell the spastics' fund.

Despite this grave injustice, quiet Mr. Howell got all excited about the Black Eagle and the Beacon Club there. He strode up and down the SPASTICS NEWS office, apparently trying to make us realise we'd missed the treat of a lifetime. "They're wonderful people—honestly, if you could see the zing they put into the help they give—well, you ask Hy Hazell. She pushed the Beacon over, and joined in the fun—she thought they were great. I did, too." Well, you could see he did!



### FOR SPECIALISED BODYWORK

by Wadhams (Coachbuilders) Ltd

on

Your own choice of Chassis

You cannot do better than contact

## FERRARIS OF CRICKLEWOOD

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CENTRE  
214-218 CRICKLEWOOD BROADWAY  
LONDON N.W.2

Established 45 years

C. F. BERGAM, Sales Manager

Telephones: GLadstone 2234-5-6-7

"Mr. and Mrs. Dowe," said Mr. Howell anxiously. "Got that? Mr. and Mrs. Dowe, they run it. It would be nice to mention them all, but you put down Mr. and Mrs. Dowe and they'll know it means all of them. They're so enthusiastic—marvellous spirit, and so kind—it's a way of saying thank you."

Indeed it is, and we say it very gratefully to these warm-hearted people.



## Grimsby Record

(Left to right): Rival collector for spastics and fellow licensee Mr. Chuck Stevens, with Mr. Matt Quinn, President of the Grimsby Group, congratulate Mr. George Mason, landlord of The Pestle and Mortar, whose Christine Doll has just broken the Grimsby record with £40 in a four-month run. Mr. Mason is moving to Hull, where he plans to continue the kind efforts the Grimsby men have always made for spastics



## Norfolk and Norwich

Mrs. M. Threlfall of "Tynedale", Holt Road, Cromer, is a fund-raiser of note. Not only did her last coffee morning bring in £56 clear profit, but she has collected nearly 7,000 "bun" pennies and donated them to the Norwich Group. Seven thousand! (Bun pennies are those with Queen Victoria's head on them, with her hair in a bun, and they are more valuable than ordinary ones.) Mr. and Mrs. Threlfall are thinking of forming a Committee in Cromer for the benefit of spastics, and we wish them—if they need it!—every good fortune.





(Photograph: Courtesy Brighton Evening Argus)

Loraine Ashton, a six-year-old spastic girl, admires the costumes of the Pearly King and Queen at Brighton's grand annual Spastics Fair, this year opened by the Duchess of Norfolk



(Photograph: Courtesy Sheffield Telegraph)

Minnie Caldwell of "Coronation Street" judged the Sheffield Group's Autumn Fashion Show, and here she is with three young models—daughters of members

## Mrs. Redshaw Rallies Round — with £207!

The Committee of the Leeds & District Spastics Society were very pleased to receive once again a cheque from their good friend Mrs. Peggy Redshaw, 9 Sand Hill Lane, Leeds 17, to the amount of £207.

Mrs. Redshaw has, during the last few years, worked for our Group, by begging old tricycles and bicycles to be repaired at home by her husband and elder son, then she has been able to sell these towards her fund. During the week 7th to 10th October, Mrs. Redshaw held her annual sale at her home, afternoons and evenings, then on Saturdays, 12th and 19th October, the sale was continued by having a stall outside the Corena confectionery shop, on a large shopping parade, where all her gifts were sold.

This once again shows what can be done by great sacrifice of both time and labour to help the local Society.

The Leeds Committee wish to express the grateful thanks of all members to Mrs. Redshaw and friends for this concerted effort towards helping us in our work for the Spastics of Leeds.

J. W. Crosby.



(Photograph: Courtesy Yorkshire Post)

Here's Mrs. Redshaw's sale in full swing!



## Introductory Course on Industry and Commerce

An invitation to nominate two young men from Sherrards to attend the above Course—which was most intensive—was extended to me by the organiser of the Hertfordshire Association of Boys' Clubs.

Such an invitation to handicapped young people had not been made before and the chance of two spastics integrating under these circumstances with 30 unhandicapped lads was something to be proved.

James Higgins of Glasgow, and Leslie Wise of Workington—both having been head boys of Sherrards—were selected, and on their return the following letter was received from the Course Director: Lt.-Col. Johnston.

"I hope that the two boys from Sherrards enjoyed their week at Woodrow and felt that they got some benefit from it. From what they themselves told me I believe this to be the case.

I would like to say what a big contribution they both made to the course. They set a magnificent example of enthusiasm, interest, and readiness to have a go at anything that came along, which brought forth admiration not only from the staff but also from their fellow-students, and this, added to their own personal charm, greatly enhanced the value of the course with them at the giving rather than at the receiving end."

James and Leslie are very pleased and proud of this, as indeed, are all at Sherrards.

E. L. Knight, Principal.



## The Pools . . .

### “Business As Usual During Alterations”

MANY of our readers will have seen in the National Press that Regional Pool Promotions lost, in the High Court, the appeal by the Director of Public Prosecutions against the Magistrates' decision in the test case brought against the bingo competitions run by The Friends of Spastics League.

Because these bingo games were ruled on a technical point to be not proper games they have had to be discontinued.

The possibility of this decision by the High Court had been foreseen, and the basis of the competition was immediately amended.

Pools Betting Duty will now have to be paid on the Pool element but none of the duty will fall on the charities which get their income from the 2d.'s in every shilling contributed by members of the League. The Spastics Society and the Sembal Trust will not suffer any loss of income.

Readers may remember (if they read our October issue) that members of the Spastics League Club, originally formed primarily to help this Society, wanted to extend their charitable activity: they agreed to raise additional funds to be shared between the Spastics Society and the new Sembal Trust through which they could contribute still further to the alleviation of human suffering, distress and ignorance.

## The Spastic Fellowship Magazine

If you like the SPASTIC NEWS, you will enjoy *The Spastic Fellowship Magazine*, published in Liverpool. It comes out five times a year and the annual subscription is 5s.

Send your subscription to: Miss A. Angers, 36 Greenbank Road, Liverpool, 18, and give yourself or your friends a present of interesting and amusing reading matter all through next year.

## “Blown By The Wind”

Peter Nash and Dorrie Simpkins, two spastic members of the Radio Amateur Invalid & Bedfast Club, have written a little book of poems which they have called “Blown by the Wind”. They hope to sell some of the copies, at 2s. 6d. each, to raise a little money for charity. The book is very well produced, by duplicating machine (honestly, it's startling well done), and has a wide range of subjects.

Write to Mrs. F. E. Woolley at the club, 10 Sturton Road, Saxilby, Lincoln.

## “HELPING HAND”

### Steerable Model ‘S’ Invalid wheel chair.

One armed patients need continual attendance.

Model ‘S’ allows Independence for Toilet visits etc.

This chair takes up little more space than an ordinary domestic chair and can be manipulated in very small passages or stairs. It is self propelled either by hand or foot. The various components such as arm rests, foot rests, etc., are retractable for side entry of the patient and the foot rest folds back to allow foot propulsion.

Fitted with powerful wheel brakes which can be operated by patient or attendant.

Suitable for adults or children

Tubular steel construction, stove enamelled and Vynide upholstery. Table attachment available to order



Sales and Service

**L. N. PATENTS CO.**

**EMPIRE WORKS, CORNGREAVES ROAD  
CRADLEY HEATH, STAFFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND**



# EVEREST & JENNINGS

## *Folding*

## WHEELCHAIRS



**World-famous for Quality,  
Design, Manoeuvrability.**

For true mobility you must have an EVEREST & JENNINGS Wheelchair—the simple way to restored independence at Home, in the Office or Workshop. Folds to only 10" wide for easy transit.

*Send TODAY for Catalogue on all models.*

### **ZIMMER ORTHOPAEDIC LIMITED**

**LONDON OFFICES AND SHOWROOMS:**

**Zimmer House, 176/178 & 134 Brompton Rd, S.W.3. Tel: KNightsbridge 6416 (5 lines)**



*Please send me*

\* Wheelchair Catalogue ☐

\* Walking Aid Folder ☐

NAME

ADDRESS



# PIONEERS!

## O PIONEERS!

*by Ernest Barnes, Prested Hall*

IN these articles I shall try to recount some of my experiences in the last nine years, during which time I have been at Prested Hall, which will show that the life of a spastic in a Residential Centre is not all blood, sweat and tears, as uninformed people seem to think. Some of the informed also make this out.

I left home at 4.45 on the dark, cold morning of 31st December, 1954, with my Welfare Officer. We left early, as Mr. Peacock had to be back in Wells by 2 p.m. I was feeling pretty stunned, as I had had no idea that I would be accepted for Prested so quickly, and I had had to give up all my social activities in Wells at very short notice. However, my spirits rose as we rode through the darkness, Mr. Peacock being a very cheerful bod. We stopped in Ipswich for hot coffee, and we reached Prested at ten o'clock. As we bumped down the then unsurfaced drive, the snow began to fall. The Hall looked grim and unwelcoming, with its uncurtained windows.

My W.O. rang the bell but got no response, waited, and rang again. This time it was answered—the door was opened and a lady in a “see-more” dressing gown but little else looked out at us. The W.O. explained who we were. “Oh, but you canna come in to-day. You weren’t expected till Monday.” There followed an argument, and we asked to see the Warden. “Och, nay, he’s got a fat head from last night”, said she in a broad Scot’s accent, “But bring the poor wee laddie in.” We came in, my eyes and mind still on the contents of the dressing gown, which seemed to be the only bright spot in those bare and sombre surroundings.

We had weak tea from cracked cups, the W.O. saying to me sotto voice, “Stick it for a few days, boy, I’ll claw you out if it’s as bad as it looks.” -I spent the rest of the day putting hooks on curtains, and to my surprise and annoyance I was kissed good-night and tucked up in bed.

Three days later, five more residents came. I had never met so many spastics; there was much weeping and wailing by most of the parents and some Charlies, while we took turns to sit on the six chairs then in the lounge. Soon, however, we were alone. We sat in silence for a spell, then Alan piped up to me, “What do you think about the TEST?” “A lot of bloody old fogeys, pulling my tongue about” said I, thinking he meant the interview at Keat’s House. It wasn’t till some time later that I discovered he was talking about the Test Match in Australia, of which I knew nothing.

There followed six months of wet-nursing and absolute boredom, interspersed by bright spots like the ear-inspection parade. This consisted of all of us lining up in the sun-lounge

and having our ears looked at by Mrs. A. If she found any muck, she would give the house-father a rocket! She hated our poor lone house-father (the first of his breed), and once gave me half-a-crown *not* to wash my ears; I tipped him off, and he gave me 20 cigs. to wash ’em.

During the time that the Warden and his wife acted as house-parents we had a sudden power-cut about ten o’clock one night, and Joan and I, armed with two torches, went upstairs to rescue the distressed. When we got upstairs, silhouetted in the beam of Joan’s torch was one of the boys in his birthday suit, yelling for his pyjamas. I can, to this day, hear Joan’s naughty giggle!

By this time the workshop had been opened, and we had an O.T., who immediately went down with chicken-pox, and I was put in charge. While I was walking round the workshop one afternoon, exhorting people to work, there was a sudden wave of laughter, and turning, I saw Mr. Taylor, our physio, who was giving a very excellent imitation of me and my gyrations, complete with walking stick and protruding tongue. This was, I think, the funniest thing in a quiet way I’ve ever seen.

One Saturday morning a man rang the bell, walked in and announced, “I’m the new Warden.” This, of course, caused consternation, and Mrs. Z. sought me out and said, “Ernest, you must do something. He looks like a farm labourer, got up in his Sunday best.” I had a look, and I was inclined to agree with her. He looked to me to be a poor bet for free drinks, for one thing, a facility fairly abundant at the time. We had heard things, not nice things either, and we decided that, come hell or high water, he would have to go. After quite a few battles we failed, and he is still with us, perhaps a sadder but wiser man and fortunately for us, his alcohol yield never increased, nor did it dry up completely.

The next lump of humour was old Jack, who was a very bright lad. One morning, the Guv’nor asked him to get a large packet of razor-blades. He gave him the money, plus his bus fare, which was all profit, as Jack used his trike. Jack returned with a small packet of blades and left them in the office. When the Guv’nor returned, he yelled for Jack. “What’s with? I told you to get me a large packet”. “No you just said a packet”, said Jack. “You’re barmy” said the Guv’nor. “I’m not”, retorted Jack pulling out his certificate of decertification. “This proves it. That’s more than you can do.” One squashed Warden.

Filled with the spirit of pioneering, four of us decided one day to make an expedition without the burden of an escort, into the (then) unknown. We set off up the drive, I in my



hand-propelled trike, towing a wheelchair, the third clot on my lap, the fourth on another trike. We had to cross the A.12. Waiting for the bus, I felt very big-headed, for was I not the only one of us who had been on a bus alone before? I was considerably deflated when the other three boarded the bus without difficulty, whilst I muffed it and banged my nose on the rail. We arrived in Colchester, and had tea in a restaurant, with all the other eaters staring at us and wondering what on earth we were. Then came the big test. We had to cross Crouch Street to get to the cinema—a thin red line paving the way for future generations of spastics. On the way home we bought fish and chips, wrapped up in the *News of the World*.

Thus ended the first two years, which are said to be the worst. There are only two residents left with us now who have seen all these things, and one cook. One can always find humour if one looks for it. My recipe for being happy in a Centre over a number of years is to maintain one's individuality at all costs, and to always remember that the three words in our vocabulary that stink to high heaven are "independence", "spastic-consciousness" and "handicapped".



"Why does everyone call me a snob?"



(Photograph: Courtesy Bucks Advertiser)

Mr. Moira, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Pringle of the Executive Committee, Mr. Emms, Vice-Chairman and Mrs. Stevens learn how to make a cake from Miss Betty Leach, at Ponds. Mr. Moira is sure it's instant pastry. Mr. Pringle doubts the validity of the recipe. Mr. Emms is urging a dash of angostura. Mrs. Stevens likes it as it is. And, indeed, it turned out very well



## "THE OPAL" ADJUSTABLE TILTING CHAIR



### A MODERN TUBULAR STEEL VERSION OF THE WELL-KNOWN "M" CHAIR

- ★ Easily tilted to the most comfortable position and firmly locked by depressing one foot pedal
- ★ Arms adjustable for angle and height to enable tray to be kept horizontal
- ★ Deep foam filled upholstery in pastel green "Vynide"
- ★ Footrest adjustable for length and angle
- ★ Large padded centre pommel. Front castors fitted with brakes
- ★ Tray in moulded plastic laminate is quickly detachable and easy to clean. Standard size 17" x 18". Large, 24" x 21". Large size fitted standard on Opal III chairs
- ★ Available in three sizes, Models I, II, III, with seat widths of 12" 14", 16"
- ★ Can be supplied with 20" Back wheels fitted with hand rims for self propelling



## AMESBURY SURGICAL APPLIANCES LTD

SOUTH MILL ROAD, AMESBURY,  
WILTSHIRE • Telephone: 2157

Please send me free leaflets as indicated

- ☐ NEW TUBULAR STEEL CHAIRS
- ☐ OUR REP. TO CALL WHEN NEXT IN YOUR AREA

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

## THE CARDIFF '62 CLUB

ON 8th October, 1962, the Cardiff '62 Club commenced its activities. Its membership includes some of the most severely handicapped spastics over the age of 16 years in the principality. Yet the club has achieved what might be called the impossible.

The club has a splendid group of leaders, drawn from a good cross-section of the community, they include a banker and his wife, a butcher, civil servant, and university students, together with the members of the local Toc H. Nothing is served up to members on a silver salver: they are encouraged to do things for themselves. It is they who decide the policy of the club, it is they who have to put it into action.

During its first year a very extensive and carefully arranged programme was carried out in full. Members arranged their own parties and listened to educational talks. During the summer months motorised rambles were arranged and those over 18 years of age were taken to see the many quaint old country inns in the Vale of Glamorgan. They have also been shown over the automatic telephone exchange, and seen the local newspaper being printed, spent evenings at the theatre, and visited other youth clubs in the city.

As we embark on our second year, we meet in a new club room, the old one having become too inadequate for our needs.

The club is registered and affiliated to the Cardiff City of Youth Clubs Association, on which the club has two representatives. The club now meets on Monday of each week, and an ambitious programme is under way. Handicrafts are being taught, and for those who are unable to participate in them groups are made up which encourage the use of discussion, debates on current affairs, even talks on the latest in fashion. The value of goods in the shops is quite a favourite topic.

Perhaps the highlight of the present session is that the club arranged its own stall at the Cardiff & Districts Spastic Association's Annual Christmas Fayre in November. Then in December the club has offered, as its contribution to the success of the First Annual Conference of South Wales Groups which is being held in Cardiff, to act as hosts to spastics whose parents will be attending the conference. Also in December they are entering a float in the Annual Christmas procession in the city. When members learned that, as members of the Cardiff City Youth Association, they were entitled to enter the procession, the spirit of enthusiasm which permeates throughout the club came to the fore. If others can do it, so can we!

T. J. Evans.



# SCHOOLS & CENTRES OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

## SCHOOLS

### THE CRAIG-Y-PARC SCHOOL

Pentyrch, Nr. Cardiff.  
Telephone: Pentyrch 397.  
Headmistress:  
Mrs. C. M. Kearslake.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
Miss M. B. Jowett, M.B.E.  
Primary and Secondary Education for  
Spastics between 5 and 16 years.  
Accommodation 50.

### THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

Starvecrow, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge,  
Kent. Telephone: Tonbridge 4584.  
Headmaster:  
H. B. Davies, Esq., M.B.E., B.Sc.(Econ.).  
Chairman of the Board of Governors:  
Douglas Delarue, Esq., J.P.  
Secondary Modern and Grammar Educa-  
tion for Spastics of 11 years and over.  
Accommodation: 72.

### INGFIELD MANOR SCHOOL

Five Oaks, Nr. Billingshurst, Sussex.  
Telephone: Billingshurst 2294.  
Headmistress: Miss E. M. Varty.  
Education for spastics aged 5-16 reputed  
to be below average intelligence.  
Accommodation: 50.

### IRTON HALL SCHOOL

Holmrook, Cumberland.  
Telephone: Holmrook 242.  
Headmaster:  
John Nelson, Esq.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
J. D. Herd, Esq.  
Education for Spastics reputed to be below  
average intelligence.  
Accommodation: 41.

### THE WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL

Tixover Grange, Duddington,  
Nr. Stamford.  
Telephone: Duddington 212.  
Headmaster:  
R. A. Pedder, Esq.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
Eric P. Smith, Esq.  
Primary and Secondary Education for  
Spastics between 5 and 16 years.  
Accommodation: 62, 8 Day Pupils.

## ASSESSMENT CENTRE

### HAWKSWORTH HALL

Guiseley, Leeds, Yorks.  
Telephone: Guiseley 2914.  
Principal: J. D. Johnson, Esq.  
Assessment Centre for Spastic children  
between 5 and 13 years.  
Accommodation: 24.

\* \* \*

## ADULT CENTRES

### CHESTER OFFICE TRAINING CENTRE

Western Avenue,  
Off Saughall Road,  
Blacon,  
Cheshire.  
Telephone: CHESTER 26987.

#### Stockport Branch

Granville House, Parsonage Road, Heaton  
Moor, Stockport.  
Telephone: HEATON MOOR 8776.  
Principal: Mrs. V. S. Parker.  
Vocational Training Centre for Young  
Adult Spastics.  
Accommodation in both units: 35.

### COOMBE FARM

Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey.  
Telephone: Addiscombe 2310.  
Warden: F. W. Bowyer, Esq., M.A.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
R. Meek, Esq.  
Residential Centre for Spastics aged from  
16 to 25 years. Accommodation: 45.

### DARESBURY HALL

Daresbury, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.  
Telephone: Moore 359.  
Warden: F. W. Bellman, Esq.  
Residential Centre for Male Spastics aged  
from 16 to 35 years.  
Accommodation: 34.

### PONDS HOME

Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks.  
Telephone: Jordans 2398/9.  
Warden: Mrs. C. Brown.  
Chairman of the House Committee:  
Mrs. E. Hambly.  
Residential Centre for young adult  
Spastics.  
Accommodation: 52 and 2 holiday beds.

## PRESTED HALL & THE GRANGE

Feering, Kelvedon, Essex.  
Telephone: Kelvedon 482.  
Warden: J. H. Watson, Esq.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
Miss Mary Ruck, R.R.C.  
Residential Centre for Spastics aged from  
25 to 40 years. Accommodation: 31.

## THE GRANGE:

High Street, Kelvedon.  
Accommodates 13 Spastics over the age of  
40 years.

\* \* \*

## TRAINING CENTRE

### "SHERRARDS"

Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts.  
Telephone: Welwyn Garden 22125.  
Principal: E. L. Knight, Esq.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
The Hon. Lady Bowes Lyon.  
Vocational Training Centre for young  
adult Spastics. Accommodation: 66.

\* \* \*

## FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE

Dene Park, Shipbourne Rd.,  
Tonbridge, Kent.  
Telephone: Tonbridge 3859.  
Principal: P. K. Mayhew, Esq., M.A.

\* \* \*

## HOLIDAY HOTELS

### ARUNDEL PRIVATE HOTEL

23, The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea.  
Telephone: Southend 476351.  
Manageress: Miss M. Burden.  
Hotel for Spastics and accompanying rela-  
tives or friends. Accommodation: 19.  
Write to Manageress for bookings.

### BEDFONT HOLIDAY HOTEL

Marine Parade West,  
Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.  
Manageress: Mrs. J. P. R. Molyneaux.

## S.O.S. HOLIDAY HOTEL FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN

Colwall Court, Bexhill.  
Telephone: Bexhill 1491.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
David Jacobs, Esq. Accommodation: 23.

# SCHOOLS AFFILIATED TO THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

### BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

43 Shrewsbury Road, Oxtou,  
Birkenhead. Tel.: Claughton 2583.  
Headmistress:  
Mrs. M. Collinge, B.A.  
Chairman:  
F. H. Campbell, Esq.

Day education and treatment for  
children between the ages of 5 and  
16.

### BIRTENSHAW HALL SCHOOL

Darwen Road, Bromley Cross,  
Bolton. Telephone: Eagley 230.  
Headmaster:  
D. A. Hiles, Esq.  
Chairman:  
W. Sheppard, Esq.

Special education and therapy for 36  
spastic children between the ages of  
5 and 16. 19 residential and 17 day  
pupils.

### DAME HANNAH ROGERS SCHOOL

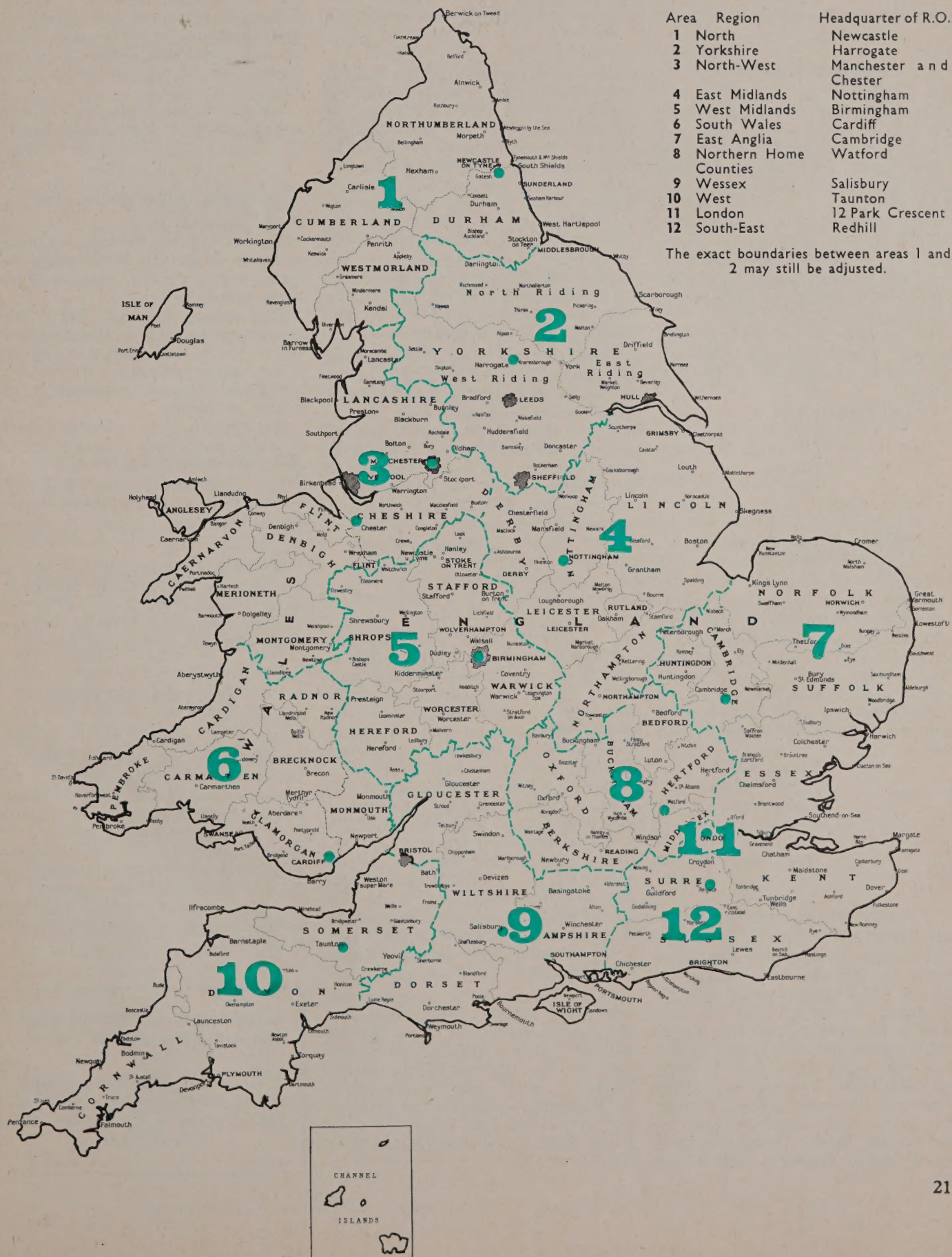
Ivybridge, Devon.  
Telephone: Ivybridge 461.  
Headmistress:  
Miss B. G. Sutcliffe.  
Chairman:  
Norman Capener, Esq., F.R.C.S.  
Residential School for 50 cerebral  
palsied children, boys and girls, be-  
tween the ages 5 and 16.

### PERCY HEDLEY SCHOOL

Forest Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne 12.  
Telephone: Newcastle 66-5491/2.  
Headmaster:  
Mr. D. D. Johnston, M.A., M.Ed.  
Chairman:  
Alderman J. Gray, J.P.  
Special education for severely dis-  
abled children with cerebral palsy  
who live in the Five Northern  
Counties.  
Accommodation: 32 Day pupils.  
40 Boarders.



# THE REGIONS AS THEY WILL BE BY THE END OF 1964





# Letters to the Editor

## SEGREGATIONIST

Dear Editor,

Not long ago at our Annual Meeting in Buffalo, we had a panel discussion on whether a handicapped person should date a normal. I feel that the severely handicapped should be with other handicapped persons.

Our Cerebral Palsy Association (New York) is joining with another handicapped group, which I don't like at all. I feel the cerebral palsied should have their own organisation: we feel like step-children now.

Do you have cerebral palsy in other countries? I am very anxious to have pen pals in other countries like France and Holland.

With all good wishes,

ANN TURNER,  
248 Bedford Avenue,  
Buffalo,  
New York.

## LETTER TO OUR SEALS DEPARTMENT

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate you on your efficiency in sending me only tie-on labels this year after I drew your attention last year to the fact that gummed labels are not suitable for use in the humidity of the tropics.

This attention to small details deserves praise and makes us glad to support your cause.

Yours sincerely,  
NANCY ROSTART,  
Texaw Trinidad Inc.,  
Forest Reserve,  
Trinidad,  
West Indies.

## LEAVING SCHOOL

Dear Editor,

I was eight years of age when I first went to the Wilfred Pickles School for Spastics, and I was one of the School's first pupils. Previously I had been to a school in Ivy Bridge, South Devon, and then to another one near Bristol, so that I was very happy to be only 40 miles away from home. I enjoyed school most of the time, although I did not like going back after holidays especially after the long summer break. During the eight years I lived at Tixover I received edu-

cation, speech therapy and physiotherapy, and I learned to enjoy mixing with other children. Best of all I liked living in a cottage away from the main building because this seemed more like home. In 1960 fifteen other pupils and I, accompanied by our Headmaster and some staff, enjoyed a visit to Paris where we saw everything there was to be seen. One Christmas we all went on a visit to the pantomime—"Old King Cole", at the London Palladium, and coming back our coach broke down at Marble Arch and we were stuck for hours—we enjoyed this almost as much as the pantomime.

I was lucky in being able to attend one of the Society's schools at an early age, and I owe a great deal to the Headmaster and all the staff. I am able to mix with other people in spite of being severely handicapped, and I now look forward to going to Ponds next year. I will always treasure the Bible which I received from the Marquess of Exeter on the day I left school.

RICHARD WOLFF,  
Nottingham.

## NEWS FROM PONDS

Not long ago a party from the Spastic Society Annual General Meeting came to see Ponds. Owing to heavy traffic they were an hour late, but we still showed them how we work. We don't usually work on Saturday, but this was different. Some of us work in the workshop while others were doing educational work. I think we gave them the general idea of how Ponds goes about daily life.

The Beaconsfield Rotary Club very kindly provided us with ten picture frames for the new building, and also they pay the subscription to the Red Cross Library for pictures to be changed every six months. Some of the family in the art group choose the pictures from the catalogue.

As we have a coach we can go out more often, for an example those who like classical music went to the Festival Hall for a concert. Another day a party went to the Beaconsfield Friends of Ponds tea party. As we worked on 9th November, we had Wednesday afternoon off, so we went to see the latest James Bond film ("From Russia With Love").

For the new staff and family every so often we have a fire drill. This is what the staff look forward to because they tie us up in our bed clothes and push us down the chutes, and if we are lucky somebody catches us at the bottom, but if not we would get a very hard landing!

We all, here at Ponds, would like to wish all readers a Happy New Year!

LINTON EDWARDS.

## DOGGED DOES IT—AGAIN!

Dear Editor,

Mr. Percy P. T. Price won a merit certificate in the first British multi-disabled sports meeting held at Stoke Mandeville.

This appears to me to be a great achievement by such a severely handicapped spastic, and worthy of bringing to the notice of readers of SPASTICS NEWS and everyone interested in the welfare of spastics.

Mr. Price is now equipping himself in discus and javelin throwing and is taking swimming lessons in the hope of further successes at the international meeting at which he is expected to take part in 1964.

D. A. AUERBACH.

*Mr. Price has won another success in his long and fantastically courageous struggle against the limitations of his handicap, and we send him our warmest congratulations and best wishes.*

## ARE THESE RECORDS?

Dear Editor,

Mr. E. A. Hazel is the owner of a general stores and sub-post office in Station Road, Rainham, Kent. He is also a good friend of the Spastics Society and has been collecting on their behalf for a long time. When I called to see him some time ago, his Sherrard's box was full to capacity and bursting with coins of all kinds. It was necessary for me to force a panel to extract the money which amounted to the magnificent sum of £5 16s. 6d.

Letters published on this page  
will bring you a fee of 10s. 6d.

Articles by contributors who  
are themselves spastic will be  
indicated by a STAR on the  
Contents List



This was by far the largest amount I have ever collected from a Sherrard's box. Is it in fact a record can any reader tell me?

I learned that Mr. Hazel has generously allowed a large notice board to be placed near the post office counter, for the use of his customers who wish to advertise certain articles for sale or wanted. No charge is made for the service and many of them show their appreciation by placing "a little something" in the Sherrard's box nearby.

Another Sherrard's collecting box was left with Mr. C. Norman, at the Orion Café, 114 High Street, Rainham, Kent. Two days later he sent off the official card asking for the box to be emptied and when checked the contents amounted to £3 14s. 11d. Not bad for two days' takings. Who said the youngsters of today were suffering from Beatlemania and had no time of others?

G. E. WHITCOMB,  
Collector for the County of Kent.

**MATRON/MANAGERESS**

Matron/Manageress required for new holiday hotel for spastic children and adults situated in the delightful surroundings of Birkdale, Near Southport. The successful applicant will be between 30 and 45 and will possess appropriate nursing qualifications; experience with handicapped children will be an advantage. Starting salary will be according to qualifications and experience on the scale £755-£975 plus emoluments. Applications with names of two referees to Mr. V. Walker, Secretary, Ellerslie Court Holiday Hotel, c/o Queen's Hotel, Southport.

**CRAFTSMANSHIP IN WOOD  
FOR YOUR HOME**

Roy Matthews, 15 Victoria Avenue, Wellington, Salop, makes household articles in wood, and can accept orders by post. Prices are:  
**Fruit Bowls**—£2 0 0 post free  
**Table Lamps**—£1 10 0 post free  
**Clothes Horses**—from 8/- to 16/- according to size.  
He can also supply various types of wooden handles at modest prices. Enquiries should be sent to Roy direct.

**JAN. BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER EXHIBITIONS**

8th	Harpurhey Cons. Club, Harpurhey, Manchester	J. Rea
9th	Morley Workmen's Club, Fountain Street, Morley, Leeds	J. Rea
10th	King Cross Workmen's Club, Warley Road, Halifax	J. Rea
13th	Fairwater Cons. Club, Llandaff, Cardiff	J. Gardner & K. Kennerley
13th	Dunraven Cons. Club, Pennygraig, Rhondda, Sth. Wales	J. Rea
14th	Tredegar Cons. Club, 8 Oakfield Road, Newport, Mon.	J. Gardner & J. Rea
15th	Railway Men's Club, Broad Street, Barry, Glam.	J. Gardner & J. Rea
16th	Sea View Labour Club, Dock View Road, Barry, Glam.	J. Gardner & J. Rea
17th	British Legion Club, Ammanford, Carms., Sth. Wales	J. Gardner & J. Rea
18th	Ogmore Vale Cons. Club, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend, Glam.	J. Gardner & J. Rea
20th	Watney, Coombe Reid Co. Ltd., The Brewery, Alton, Hants.	J. Gardner & J. Rea
20th	Pitshill Victory Workmen's Club, Great Chell, Stoke-on-Trent	R. Williams
21st	British Legion Club, Addlestone, Surrey	J. Gardner & J. Rea
22nd	Goring Cons. Club, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex	J. Gardner & J. Rea
23rd	Cons. Club, 18 Bargates, Christchurch, Hants	J. Gardner & J. Rea
24th	Fordingbridge Club, Fordingbridge, Hants	J. Gardner & J. Rea
25th	Kinson Cons. Club, Kinson, Bournemouth, Hants	J. Gardner & J. Rea
27th	Cadishead Cons. Club, Buckingham Road, Cadishead, Manchester	J. Rea
28th	Hopwood Unionist Club, Hopwood, Heywood, Lancs	J. Rea
29th	Openshaw Liberal Club, Openshaw, Manchester	J. Rea
30th	Higher Openshaw Cons. Club, Ashton Old Road, Manchester	J. Rea
31st	British Legion Club, Albert Road, Levershulme, Manchester	J. Rea

*Plain Knitting*

MISS JUNE REED, who is a spastic, will plain-knit your family's new woollies, for only 7s. 6d. plus postage for adult sweaters and cardigans, 5s. for children's, 5s. for men's socks and 5s. for scarves, which are double. The socks are knitted open and sewn up afterwards. All she needs is the bust, chest or foot measurement. Send 12 ozs. four-ply or 11 ozs. three-ply for an average woman's size in cardigans, to:  
MISS JUNE REED, 33 Upper Broomgrove Road, Hastings, Sussex.

**ORDER FORM**

To: THE EDITOR,  
"SPASTICS NEWS",  
12 PARK CRESCENT,  
LONDON, W.1.

Please send me SPASTICS NEWS until further notice at the annual subscription rate of 8s., including postage. (Published monthly).

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS) .....

Address .....



